



Institute of European Democrats  
in cooperation with Young Europeans (Mladí Európania)  
and with the financial support of the European Parliament

## Schengen at Risk: Can We Keep the Freedom of Movement?



### International Conference

13<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Falkensteiner Hotel, Bratislava, Slovakia

### Panellists

First session: “The Visegrad Group and the Migration impasse: Schengen at stake?”



**Jana Vnuková**, Head of European Union Law Unit of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. In past, she was working at the various positions in the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic, including Deputy Director General of the International and European Law and Director of Human Rights Division. She was also the Chair of the Committee for the Development of Human Rights of the Council of Europe. Currently, she is also the external lecturer at the Slovak Judicial Academy where she lectures domestic seminars on European law and judicial cooperation.

**Zsuzsanna Szelényi**, Member of the Hungarian Parliament, *Együtt Pártja*, Hungary. Mrs Szelényi has held several political responsibilities in Hungary since the transition to democracy. Furthermore, Mrs Szelényi worked for the Council of Europe from 1996 to 2010, as Deputy Director of the European Youth Centre Budapest. She headed the Roma Education Fund in 2010. She worked as an International Development Consultant in the Balkans and North Africa since 2011.





**Václav Nekvapil**, CEC Government Relations' Managing Director, Czech Republic, obtained his PhD in politics from Charles University in 2013. After 2004, Dr Vaclav was for three years a senior adviser to a member of the Czech Parliament. He was also Vice Chairman and Research Director of a think-tank, the Association for International Affairs (AMO). After 2008, Dr Vaclav became Executive Director for the Association for Communication in the Public Sector. In 2012 he became President of newly established Association of Public Affairs Agencies of the Czech Republic (APAA).

**Andrzej Potocki**, Vice President, *Stronnictwo Demokratyczne*, Poland. He began political activity in "Solidarity", a member of the Confederation for Independent Poland (KPN) since 1981. He was among the founder members of the Civic Movement Democratic Action (ROAD) in 1990. Since 2002 he was associate of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, was a member, political officer and acting chairman of the numerous OSCE observation missions in the Balkans. In 2004 he was elected to the post of Secretary General of the Union of Freedom, running the party first European campaign and winning four European seats for the UW. Since 2009 is the member of the Alliance of Democrats (*Stronnictwo Demokratyczne*), is a member of the party's main board and is responsible for party's foreign relations. On December 6, 2012 was elected the Vice-President of the European Democratic Party.



## Second Session: "The Migration challenges: Human Rights, International Cooperation and Migration Management"



**Zuzana Vatráľová**, Head of Office of the International Organization for Migration in Slovakia since 2003. Before joining IOM, she worked at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), BBC World Service and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia.

**Berta Fernández**, Visiting Senior Lecturer, Institute for European Studies, University of Malta since 2014. In the past she worked with the United Nations and International Organizations on building capacities and providing operational support in humanitarian emergencies in mixed migratory flows and vulnerable groups contexts. Specifically, she trained Government officials (with migration and asylum portfolios), NGOs, and police/military staff on the interface between human rights of migrants, international protection, and migration management. Over the years, she drafted policy and research papers analysing human rights issues related to immigration, border control, and asylum in Europe, Africa, and the Americas.



**Monika Begovic**, as International Officer in Croatian Parliament party NS-Reformisti, is a representative in the European Democratic Party as a member of the Presidency and Deputy Secretary General. Dr Begovic gained PhD title in political science defending a thesis in relation to international security, which is a main point of her thorough study and research. Dr Begovic is an expert in communication, worked as graduated journalist for five years in a national daily newspaper, and has a twelve years of service for the United Nations in project management, and has also worked as an expert and project manager in EU IPA funded projects.



**Martin Klus**, Member of the National Council of Slovak Republic (*Sloboda and Solidarita, SaS*), Associate Professor at the Department of Political Science of the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts of Trnava University and Deputy of Banska Bystrica Municipal Authority. He is one of the most well-known Slovak political scientists and lecturers specializing on the international relations, European affairs, public policy, public administration, lobbying and political marketing. He is also active in the third sector and tries to increase the participation of citizens and students in public affairs.

### Special intervention: Video Speech



**Gérard Deprez** is a Belgian politician. He was the president of the Walloon Christian Social Party from 1981 to 1996. In 1998 he left the PSC and founded the Citizens' Movement for Change (MCC). He was a Member of the European Parliament representing the French Community of Belgium for five terms from 1984 to 2009. From 2010 to 2014, he was Senator; nevertheless, Mr Deprez went back to the European Parliament in 2014 (Alde Group), where he is member of the Committee on Budgets and Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs. Finally, MEP Deprez is Member of the Board of Director of IED.

### Third Session: “Research Project “Migration, borders control and solidarity: Schengen at stake?”: the Youth Perception of the Schengen crisis”

**Katarina Kosmina**, Researcher, European Policy Centre, Belgrade. Mrs Kosmina works on issues of open data, open government, refugee rights, and asylum law. Additionally, she is a regular contributor for a Serbian daily *Danas* on topics related to refugee and migrant flows, as well as a documentary filmmaker for the *Vera & Donald Blinken Open Society Archives*. Kosmina gained her MA degree in International Relations and European Studies at the Central European University in Budapest.



responsibility.

**Mihai Sebe**, Expert in Romanian and European Politics, European Institute of Romania, Romania. Dr Sebe is currently an expert in Romanian and European Politics. With a Bachelor's Degree in Political Sciences and in Law he has obtained a PhD in Political Sciences at the University of Bucharest. His main areas of interest are political sciences, international relations, contemporary history of Europe and Romania, the history of the European idea as well as public law and the area of ethics and corporate social

**Antonios Nestoras**, PhD candidate, Institute for European Studies, Belgium. Antonios Nestoras is a doctoral researcher at the Institute for European Studies-VUB. He has held positions with the ALDE and EPP Groups in the European Parliament and the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies. Mr Nestoras graduated from the International and European Studies Department of the University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki (GR). He completed the MA in International Relations and Diplomacy in the University of Leiden (NL) where he was awarded the Huygens Scholarship for International Talent.



**Tommaso Emiliani**, Academic Assistant, College of Europe, Belgium, since August 2015. Tommaso holds an MA in European Interdisciplinary Studies from the College of Europe in Natolin (2014-15), an MA in International Relations – Peace, Conflicts, Security from the Université Libre de Bruxelles (2010-12). His previous work experience includes Research Assistant in the field of Foreign Policy Analysis at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (2011-12) and external consultant for the Italian Consulate General in London in the framework of the European Parliament elections (2014).

**Joaquín Ferro**, Policy Assistant, European Parliament, Belgium. He has two Bachelor degrees in Political Sciences and Law from the University of Granada. He studied a Master's in International Security and Strategic Studies at the same University and a Master's in European Political Studies at the College of Europe, Bruges, where he was awarded the prize to the best Master's thesis on European internal security. Since 2013 he is research fellow at the International Security Studies Group (GESI) of the University of Granada. He has worked at Europol and currently he is Policy Assistant of MEP Morten Helveg Petersen at the European Parliament.

